

SWOSU Provost Blake Sonobe Named Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at OSRHE

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University Provost Dr. Blake Sonobe has been named Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

His appointment is effective January 1, 2013.

Dr. Sonobe has served as senior vice president and provost for academic and student affairs on the Weatherford campus since February 2005. He came to SWOSU in 1990 and taught in the Department of Chemistry, serving as chair of the Chemistry Department (1997-99) and interim chair/chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics from 1999 until 2005.

At SWOSU, Sonobe has been instrumental in many accomplishments at SWOSU including the reaccreditation process with North Central Association, sponsored program initiatives that have seen increased grants and contracts, the rise in undergraduate research projects, and spearheading efforts to improve student retention and the focus on academic quality.

While at SWOSU, Sonobe served on numerous committees and been active in civic activities. He has been in the Weatherford Rotary Club, serving as president in 2000-01. Sonobe has been a member of the General Thomas P. Stafford Air and Space Museum Board of Directors since 2006 and served as president in 2011. Sonobe was a member of the Vision 2020 strategic planning committee for Weatherford and has been active in the Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce. He has also been involved at Christ Community Church where he served as Sunday School teacher and elder.

He and his wife, Janie, have four children—Abbey, Bethany, Rebecca and Nathan.

SWOSU President Randy Beutler will appoint a search committee to seek the best candidates for the position of SWOSU Provost. He will name an interim provost to serve until a permanent provost is selected.